CHAPTER IX.

THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

VIRGINIA, was necessarily the theatre of war in the East. Richmond, the capital of the new Confederacy, was situated less than a hundred miles south of Washington, and only twenty miles went of the meridian of Washington. But while Richmond was assuredly not far from the frontier of the Confederacy, Washington was actually on the boundary line; batteries on Arlington Heights could render the Capitol and the White House untenable. Each capital, in fact, might well seem to be the prize of a bold and resolute attack. The consequences of the capture of either were certain to be momentous, and might conceivably prove to be decisive of the whole struggle. The chief care of the opposing governments, so far as operations in Virginia were concerned, was therefore, naturally, to protect their renpeettve capitals from capture, and this might be effected by either army threatening the rival capital, an well an by its taking up a covering position in front of its own. We find, in fact, three objects to have been aimed at with more or lesn constancy

throughout
the war by each of the opposing armies in Virginia;
first, the protection of the capital of its
own conn-